

the physics community

Science-writing award to William J. Kaufmann

William J. Kaufmann III is the winner of the 1980 American Institute of Physics-US Steel Foundation Science Writing Award for scientists. Kaufmann will be honored for his book, *Black Holes and Warped Spacetime*. The award includes a certificate, a Moebius strip trophy, and a \$1500 prize. He will receive it at the October AIP Corporate Associates meeting to be held at



KAUFMANN

Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, N.J. In his book, published by W. H. Freeman and Co., San Francisco, California, Kaufmann describes new astrophysical theories on black holes, supernovas, stellar evolution, and the big bang.

Kaufmann has written nearly a dozen books on astronomy, relativity, and cosmology. He received his PhD in astrophysics from Indiana University in 1968. Following a year of teaching in the astronomy department at UCLA, he joined the relativity group at Caltech. From 1970 to 1975, Kaufmann directed the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. He was a visiting scholar at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory during 1976. Kaufmann is adjunct professor of physics at San Diego State University.

More physics PhD's in 1978-79; more jobs

The number of physics doctoral recipients has leveled off following a nine-year decline, while their employment opportunities have continued to improve; so reports the 1978-79 *Graduate Student Survey*, compiled by the American Institute of Physics Manpower Statistics Division. The annual report

supplies information on various characteristics of the physics and astronomy graduate-student groups, such as their numbers, sources of support, employment offers, duration of study, specialties, work activities and salaries. Data on women, minorities and foreign students are also included. Some 6334 of the 9813 physics and 503 of the 710 astronomy graduate students responded to the *Survey*.

The *Survey* indicated that 1033 graduate students received physics doctoral degrees in 1978-79, a 6% increase over the previous year. Ninety astronomy doctoral degrees were granted in 1978-79.

There is little doubt that the new physicist had a greatly enhanced chance of obtaining employment in 1979. Since 1975, when 10% of the new doctorate holders received no job offers, the figure has dropped to 6%. In the same period, the percentage of new physicists getting two or more job offers has risen from 38 to 52%.

The physics students who have halted their graduate work at the master's degree level also showed gains in employment opportunities. For example, the respondents classified as "employed" rose from 55% in 1978 to 63% in 1979, while the group referred to as "employed and seeking employment" decreased 2 percentage points to 7%. Only 10% of the physics master's degree recipients were "uncommitted and seeking employment," a drop of 10 percentage points from the previous year.

The *Survey* reports that new physics master's degree holders received approximately \$19 000 for their starting year of employment. This represents a 10% increase since 1978. Physics doctoral degree recipients working as "postdocs" said that they earned a median starting annual salary of \$14 500, while those with "potentially permanent positions" received about \$22 500 for a year's employment.

Copies of the *Survey* may be obtained free of charge from Susanne D. Ellis, AIP Manpower Statistics Division, 335 East 45th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.

AIP issues new edition of *Graduate Programs*

The 1979-80 edition of *Graduate Programs in Physics, Astronomy and Related Fields*, published by the American Institute of Physics, is now available. The 764-page book lists 283 departments in both the US and Canada offering graduate programs in physics, astronomy, atmospheric science, ap-

plied physics, medical physics, geophysics, aerospace engineering, material science and other related fields. Copies can be ordered from Back Numbers, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 for \$10.00 per copy prepaid (or \$7.50 per copy prepaid to students for their personal use).

AAAS reports on handicapped scientists

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has recently released two publications designed to assist handicapped persons in the sciences.

The first, *Science for Handicapped Students in Higher Education*, is a report that identifies, analyzes and suggests solutions to "barriers which prevent many handicapped students from obtaining a science education at or beyond the college level."

Resource Directory of Handicapped Scientists is a reference volume that lists disabled individuals working in science. Administrators, educators and employment counselors will find this directory useful in locating persons who can share their experiences as handicapped scientists.

Copies of both publications are available for \$3.00 from the Office of Opportunities in Science, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

in brief

The National Academy of Sciences invites applications from US scientists who wish to make professional visits to the USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia between September 1981 and December 1982. Applications can be requested before 17 October from Section on USSR and Eastern Europe, NAS, 2101 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20418. The Scientists' Institute for Public Information runs a media resource service through which members of the press with questions about a news item or issue with a technical aspect, such as solar energy, are directed to scientists who have agreed to provide technical information in that area. Physicists who wish to be included in the referral listings should contact SIPI, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.